## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1999 LB 849

have donated thousands and thousands of dollars for tank trucks, jaws of life and so on, like that. So they are a source of income. And they continue to donate money to our departments out there. They're just...they're good citizens in that regard. One of the problems we have in Trenton is we have Swanson Reservoir, right west of town. And we really get tangled up with out there is drownings more so than fires. Of course, a state reservoir, we get paid nothing for dragging lakes for drownings, and we put thousands of man hours out there, and it's hard on equipment and so on. Get no tax money whatsoever for doing this. So the state really has...forces an obligation on our local fire districts out there, and we get no pay for it whatsoever. Senator Stuhr, the record, we keep records now. have to have all the training records, each month we have to attend training sessions on the local department level out We have the active firemen records from years back, I hate to admit how long I've been treasurer out there, but I have over 25 years worth of records there in the files now. We know who's active, and the same way with the EMTs, I'm not the treasurer of that group, but we have the records now, they are I don't think it would be any problem for the local available. entities to spend \$100 minimum per year, in fact I think that if we had a choice, we'd probably put more than \$100 into a fund each year for each fireman, EMT and so on out there. We're not at levy limits in our particular case out there, and I don't think any of the other districts in the area are either. So the local funds would be available. And it must be an omen here that this is scaled down so much. I believe the bill last year was 1293, it was \$250, and it all came from the state, I believe, didn't it? And some of it was local? remember, but this is scaled down a lot from that last year. And this to me would be a very minimal start to reward these volunteers. One hundred from ... I can't remember how it was. I do know it was 1293, and it was vetoed after the session ended. But we do really run into some major problems in our area with state property property, being the lakes. We have a lot of lakes out there, and they're off the tax rolls, but we fight the fires around the lakes. We...the ambulance people, I can remember one 4th of July I didn't leave the lake the whole weekend, we just had one call after another. We did not get reimbursed for any of that time. We've had drownings, I checked with our sheriff, the last one was just in December of '98,